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PORT OF LIVERPOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR

1956.

C. TINLING & CO., LTD., Printers, 53 Victoria Street, Liverpool

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PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OF LIVERPOOL.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1956 BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

This is the 84th Annual Report on the work of the Liverpool Port Health Authority.

Circular 33/52 of the Ministry of Health, dated 6th November, 1952, requests that "The Medical Officer of Health shall prepare his Annual Report for 1952 on the lines indicated in Form Port 20".

Form Port 20 reads as follows:—

PORT HEALTH AND RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

(1) Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, provides that a Medical Officer of Health shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, make an Annual Report to the Authority up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration, and the vital statistics of the

district, containing, in addition to any such matters upon which he may consider it desirable to report, such information as may from time to time be required by the Minister.

(2) Article 27 (18) of the Regulations provides that the Sanitary Inspector shall, as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars:—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year;
- (b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices;
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

(3) The Records of the Authority should accordingly be kept in such form as to enable their Medical Officer of Health to prepare his Report without delay at the close of each year. The report should be in the form and sequence indicated herein—the lettering of the tables being adhered to.

(4) The Medical Officer of Health should include in his Report any comments which he may think desirable

- (1) under the headings shown; and
- (2) on the need for any development which he considers necessary for efficient administration.

The above-mentioned directions have been followed in so far as the information asked for is available.

Section II. Table B. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1956.

CLASS OF VESSELS	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer	By the Sanitary Inspector			
SAILING FOREIGN—	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Steamers ...	5,901	12,585,037	473	2,500	156	148	101
Motor ...				2,353	63	61	45
Sailing ...				—	—	—	—
Fishing ...				—	—	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN...	5,901	12,585,037	473	4,853	219	209	146
SAILING COASTWISE—							
Steamers ...	6,072	3,459,970	12	346	24	22	3
Motor ...				224	3	3	13
Sailing ...				1	—	—	—
Fishing ...				—	—	—	—
TOTAL COASTWISE	6,072	3,459,970	12	571	27	25	16
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	11,973	16,045,007	485	5,424	246	234	162

Figures in columns 1 and 2 supplied by H.M. Collector of Customs for this Port.

Section III.

Character of Trade of Port.

The Port of Liverpool trades with all parts of the world, and almost every conceivable kind of cargo is carried by ships arriving in the Mersey.

Table C.
Passenger Traffic during 1956.

No. of Passengers	Non Europe	Irish Republic
Inwards	69,700	159,200
Outwards	96,200	143,600

Section IV. Inland Barge Traffic.

The number of inland barges plying in and about the Port of Liverpool is approximately 400 with an estimated tonnage of 70,000 tons.

CANAL BOATS (Public Health Act, 1936, Part X).

A port health inspector is engaged periodically on the inspection of canal boats plying in the river or docks.

No. of boats inspected	313
No. of boats with contraventions	29
No. of contraventions	60
No. of contraventions remedied	48
No. of boats inspected for registration	—

Section V. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of supply.

(a) THE PORT.

Liverpool Corporation supplies water for the east side and Birkenhead and Wallasey Corporations and the West Cheshire Water Board for the west side of the River Mersey.

(b) SHIPPING.

Vessels in dock are supplied from shore hydrants which are situated at almost every berth throughout the port.

(c) AIRPORT.

Water is supplied by Liverpool Corporation. Aircraft are supplied from taps at the airport.

(2) Report on tests for contamination.

A constant check is kept by the port health inspectors on the cleanliness and condition of ships' drinking water. Periodic samples of water are taken from all classes of ships entering the port; samples of water are always taken for bacteriological examination if there is any suspicion of contamination.

During the year, 243 samples of water were taken from ships and submitted for bacteriological examination, and 128 proved to be unsatisfactory.

In all cases of contamination, steps were taken to ensure a clean water supply and the local Ministry of Transport inspector was kept fully informed of any action taken.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

There has been no change in these precautions, which were described in the Report for 1955.

Section VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952.**LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.**

The list of infected ports is as follows: Rangoon, Dar Es Salaam, Rio de Janeiro; all ports in China, Indo-China, India, Pakistan, Belgian Congo, Nigeria (including British Cameroons), Gold Coast, Colombia, and Ecuador.

RADIO MESSAGES.**MOORING STATIONS.**

There has been no change in the above, as described in the Report for 1955.

The number of ships visited by the Assistant Port Medical Officers during the year was 485, of which 286 were from infected ports; of the vessels boarded in the river 43 were bound for Manchester.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION, SURVEILLANCE, CLEANSING AND DISINFECTION.

Hospital Accommodation.

Surveillance.

Cleansing.

These were described in the report for the year 1955.

Disinfection of ships is done by officers of the Port Health Authority. During the year, 127 disinfections after infectious sickness were carried out. Infected beds and bedding were removed by the City Staff for steam disinfection.

Section VII.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No cases of smallpox, plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus or relapsing fever were landed at Liverpool during the year.

SMALLPOX.

Cases of smallpox are sent to the Port Health Hospital, New Ferry, Cheshire.

Transport for such cases is provided by the Liverpool City Ambulance Authority.

Consultants available are:—

Professor Andrew B. Semple, Medical Officer of Health.

Dr. E. R. Peirce, Senior Assistant Port Medical Officer.

Facilities for laboratory diagnosis are available at the Liverpool University School of Hygiene.

Section VIII.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Special pamphlets giving the location, days and hours of the available facilities for treatment of venereal disease are distributed to ships by officers of the Port Health Authority.

There were 41 cases of venereal disease reported aboard 20 vessels arriving in the port during the year. These were referred, where circumstances required, for treatment at the Seamen's Dispensary.

Section IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SHIPS.

s.s. ———— arrived at Liverpool on 24th March from London. The Medical Officer of Health for the Port of London reported that during the vessel's stay there, several cases of gastro-enteritis had occurred among the crew, but there was insufficient time to complete investigations.

On arrival here all footstuffs remaining aboard were sampled, specimens of water were taken from the drinking water tanks and faeces of all food handlers were submitted for examination.

Examinations of foodstuffs proved negative: the water tanks were very unsatisfactory and were treated with chlorine and refilled with fresh water: faeces from two of the catering staff were reported positive for *Shigella dysentery*. Other faeces submitted for investigation were negative. The two stewards mentioned above were removed to a Liverpool hospital, and disinfection of the affected cabins and bedding was carried out.

s.s. ———— arrived at Liverpool from Glasgow on 21st May, 1956. It was reported that during the vessel's stay in Glasgow, from 15th to 19th May, 14 cases of diarrhoea and vomiting had occurred among the engineering branch of the crew, including two wives of engineers. There had been no opportunity in Glasgow to arrange for specimens for bacteriological examination, but on arrival at Liverpool specimens of faeces were taken from 32 members of the engineering and catering sections of the crew.

The Director of the Public Health Laboratory reported that four specimens of faeces showed *Shigella sonnei* present, and one *Salmonella paratyphi B.* present.

Samples of lettuce and radish showed no organisms of the Salmonella or Dysentery groups to be present.

The ship's drinking water was sampled and submitted for bacteriological examination and was found to be unsatisfactory. The shipping company were instructed to chlorinate the fresh water tanks.

The vessel sailed for New Zealand on 6th June, 1956.

Typhoid Fever.

s.s. ——— arrived at Liverpool on October 22nd, 1956 from Bombay and was boarded before berthing by an assistant port medical officer.

Details of voyage:	Left Bombay	3.10.56
	,, Karachi	5.10.56
	,, Aden	9.10.56
	,, Port Said	14.10.56
	,, Gibraltar	19.10.56

Arrived Liverpool 22.10.56

Oct. 23rd. The ship's surgeon reported to the boarding medical officer that no deaths and no infectious sickness had occurred during the voyage, and the answer to all the questions on the Declaration of Health, Page 1, was "No".

Oct. 23rd. The ship's surgeon gave a similar report to a port health inspector on his routine visit.

Oct. 30th. The vessel sailed for Glasgow via Cardiff.

Nov. 11th. The vessel arrived at Liverpool on outward voyage.

Nov. 12th. The Chief Officer reported all well on board to the port health inspector.

Nov. 14th. A telephone message was received from the company's medical superintendent that several cases of diarrhoea had occurred aboard the vessel. A port health inspector was sent to the vessel immediately and he reported that 15 members of the crew were suffering from severe diarrhoea and were being treated by the

company's doctor. Arrangements were made for collecting samples of faeces from all members of the crew suffering with diarrhoea and also all members of the catering staff.

Samples of water were obtained from the following points and sent to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory for examination :

- (1) Q.M's pantry.
- (2) P.O's pantry.
- (3) Main pantry.
- (4) Native crew pantry.
- (5) Main galley.
- (6) Ice-water tap in main galley.

Samples of food taken for examination :

Bologna sausage and liver sausage.

All other food had been taken aboard at either Liverpool or Glasgow for outward voyage.

Nov. 15th. The Director of the Public Health Laboratory reported by telephone that the water sample obtained from the native crew pantry was unsatisfactory. The Chief Officer was instructed to chlorinate the main header tank (20 parts per million), and to flood the whole pipeline system with this water, leave it standing for twelve hours, pump out and refill with fresh water. The tap in the native crew pantry was removed and sterilized by the ship's hospital staff. The fresh water pipeline, along the starboard well-deck scupper, was examined for leakage.

Summary to date : Number of sick : 16.

Number of water samples taken : 6.

Number of food samples taken : 2.

Number of samples of faeces : 40.

Nov. 16th. The Director of the Public Health Laboratory reported that no pathogenic organisms had been isolated from either of the samples of sausage.

Nov. 17th. The Director of the Public Health Laboratory reported that the specimens of faeces from the 2nd baker and the baker's scullion, showed *Salmonella typhi* present. An ex. 2nd baker and a Goanese steward showed organisms of the *Salmonella* group present, and were ultimately identified as *Salmonella senftenberg* and a *Salmonella*-like member of the paracolony group (not a true salmonella), respectively.

The 2nd baker and the baker's scullion were removed to St. James' Hospital, Birkenhead.

No organisms of the salmonella or dysentery groups were found in any of the other specimens of faeces submitted.

Nov. 19th. the ex. 2nd baker and the Goanese steward were removed to St. James' Hospital, Birkenhead.

All bread and confectionery made by the 2nd baker was destroyed.

Report on water samples.

All the original samples, taken on the 14th November before chlorination, showed a high bacterial count, and that from the native crew pantry indicated sewage contamination also. Further samples taken on Nov. 16th also gave a high bacterial count, and as a consequence the whole water supply in the ship was chlorinated (using 20-30 parts per million), allowed to stand for 12 hours, and then pumped out and the tanks refilled with clean water from the shore supply.

Nov. 24th. It was arranged that the two typhoid carriers should be repatriated, and they were accommodated in the isolation hospital of the ship when it left the Mersey today for Bombay.

The final report from the Director of the Public Health Laboratory showed that the water supply of the vessel was sterile, with the exception of one tap in the main pantry and a small count from the tap in the P.O.'s pantry. A message was sent to the vessel to have both these taps taken off, cleaned and steam sterilized.

m.v. ——— arrived from Bombay on 4.12.56 and was boarded in the river by an assistant port medical officer. The ship's surgeon notified a

first class passenger as suffering from an illness probably of the enteric group. The onset was stated to be 18.10.56, but he had recovered and the illness recurred after joining the vessel at Karachi. He was sent to Fazakerley Hospital for observation and eventually discharged as not suffering from typhoid fever.

On December 27th it was reported that a General Servant, aged 51, had been removed from aboard the vessel to the Tropical Ward, Royal Infirmary and was later reported to be a case of typhoid fever.

Precautionary Measures at Liverpool.

Immediately after the arrival of the vessel, samples of food and water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and all proved negative for typhoid fever. Samples of faeces were taken from all the catering staff and all proved to be negative.

No further cases occurred and the vessel sailed on 29th December.

Details of voyage:	Left	Bombay	2.11.56
	,,	Karachi	4.11.56
	,,	Durban	15.11.56
	,,	Las Palmas	29.11.56
	Arrived	Liverpool	4.12.56

Table D.

The number of cases of infectious disease *landed from vessels* arriving in the Port of Liverpool and those occurring in Liverpool-bound ships which were disposed of *prior to the arrival of the vessels* at the port, are shown on the following tables.

Cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels.

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Plague	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	2
Diphtheria	—	2	2
Measles and German Measles	5	8	7
Chickenpox	27	13	23
Tuberculosis	35	7	28
Pneumonia	2	11	12
Dysentery	2	7	7
Malaria	3	13	13
Mumps	—	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Meningitis	—	1	1
Pyrexia (Unknown Origin)	1	2	3
Gastro Enteritis	1	—	1
	78	67	102

**Cases of Infectious sickness occurring in vessels during the voyage
but disposed of prior to arrival.**

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crew.	
Plague	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	1	2
Enteric Fever	—	4	3
Measles and German Measles	24	2	20
Chickenpox	8	3	9
Tuberculosis	1	11	11
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Malaria	—	17	12
Mumps	4	1	5
Poliomyelitis	—	1	1
Dysentery	—	6	5
Leprosy	—	2	1
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
	41	49	72

Cases landed from other ships (coastwise vessels).

Diseases.	No. of Cases during Year.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers.	Crews.	
Tuberculosis	14	1	13
Polomyelitis	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1
Pyrexia (unknown origin)... ..	—	1	1
	15	3	16

Section X. MALARIA.

During the year 33 cases of malarial fever in 25 ships were notified, which were either landed in Liverpool or had recovered abroad.

Section XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE.

No rodent plague was discovered either in ships or ashore. Four suspected rats proved on examination to be negative.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS ON SHORE.

The measures taken against rodents have been continued during the year, as described in previous reports.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

(PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER, 1951).

The measures taken against pests have been continued during the year, as described in previous reports.

37 Rodent Control certificates were issued during the year.

Section XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

The measures taken against rodents in ships have been continued during the year on the same lines as shown in previous reports.

During 1956, 193 rats and 242 mice, recovered from ships, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination.

INSPECTION OF DOCK PREMISES.

The following defects and nuisances were dealt with on dock premises:

Description of Premises	Defective or Inadequate					Structural Defects	Rat Harborage	Rat Infestation	Accumulated Refuse	Noxious Effluvia	Dirty Conditions	Verminous Conditions	Damp Conditions	Water Supply	Miscellaneous
	Lighting	Heating	Ventilation	W.C. Accommodation	Drainage										
Dock Sheds	—	—	—	—	1	1	20	6	23	—	1	—	—	—	—
Canteens ...	—	3	1	2	2	13	11	11	4	—	18	2	2	42	142
Factories ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Quays ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	37	—	—	2	—	—	—
Roadways ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	51	—	—	—	—	—	—
Railway Premises ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shipyards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mills ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Latrines ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lairages ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Club Premises	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Airport Premises...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	2
Total ...	—	3	1	2	4	15	48	33	126	—	20	6	2	42	144

The re-building and modernisation of dock latrines throughout the entire port area is still proceeding. The new premises are of modern design, and special provision for females and for Asiatics is being provided where required.

Number and species of rats caught, in the Port of Liverpool during the year 1956.

1956	Ships		Quays		Other Sources		Total		Examined		Destroyed		Total Caught
	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black	Brown	Black.	Brown.	Black.	Brown.	
January	33	—	42	9	14	21	89	30	61	16	28	14	119
February	94	—	19	3	30	3	143	6	64	4	79	2	149
March ...	17	—	22	97	18	2	57	99	36	13	21	86	156
April ...	67	—	15	35	35	6	117	41	59	21	58	20	158
May ...	43	—	36	3	26	11	105	14	66	9	39	5	119
June ...	119	—	40	1	45	—	204	1	113	1	91	—	205
July ...	102	—	48	1	45	7	195	8	117	7	78	1	203
August	88	—	60	1	24	18	172	19	89	9	83	10	191
September	106	—	67	7	16	20	189	27	90	25	99	2	216
October	35	—	69	14	27	39	131	53	107	44	24	9	184
November	128	—	65	3	28	18	221	21	102	19	119	2	242
December	54	—	28	11	10	32	92	43	46	36	46	7	135
TOTAL	886	—	511	185	318	177	1,715	362	950	204	765	158	2,077

Table E.—Rats Destroyed.

Rodents destroyed during the year 1956 in ships from foreign ports.

Category										Number
Black Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	886
Brown Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Rodents destroyed during the year 1956 in Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Category										Number
Black Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	829
Brown Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	362
Species not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sent for examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	961
Infected with plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Number of Mice destroyed in vessels ... 687

Number of Mice destroyed on quays ... 380

Number of Mice examined from vessels and quays ... 584

The combined returns of all rats and mice caught and destroyed by shipping firms employing their own rat-catchers, by rat catching companies and by the Port Health Authority, during the year 1956, are as follows:—

								Rats	Mice
PORT—									
In vessels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,036	687
On quays	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,209	380
								2,245	1,067

N.B.—In addition to the above, 2,884 rats were caught and destroyed by the Dock Board ratcatchers during the year.

Number of Visits to Vessels by Rat Catchers ...	6,397
Number of Visits to Vessels by Rat Searchers ...	6,520
Number of Visits to Quays, Sheds, etc. , by Inspectors ...	2,389
Number of Visits to Quays, Sheds, etc. , by Rat Searchers	3,086
Number of Visits to Quays, Sheds, etc. , by Rat Catchers	18,628

Measures of Rat Destruction in Plague-“Infected” or “Suspected” vessels or in vessels from Plague-Infected Ports during the year 1956.

Total Vessels Arriving	No. Fumigated with SO ₂	No. of Rodents Killed	No. Fumigated with HCN	No. of Rodents Killed	No. Fumigated with both HCN & SO ₂	No. of Rats Killed	No. of such vessels in which Trapping, etc., was employed	No. of Rodents Killed	No. of such vessels in which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out
286*	1	7 rats	25	192 rats 42 mice	—	—	237	80 rats 72 mice	35

* Including 43 vessels bound for Manchester.

Table F.—Deratting Certificates Issued.
Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1956.

Number of Deratting Certificates issued after Fumigation with		After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.	TOTAL	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
H.C.N.	Sulphur				
84	13	—	97	573	670

Section XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

Careful attention has been paid to the inspection of ships for nuisances. The steady improvement in accommodation and catering facilities has been maintained; and there is a marked decrease in the number of vessels infested with vermin.

In the early part of the year three Merchant Navy Officers were appointed assistant port health inspectors. They have proved themselves to be apt pupils and carry out their duties in a very efficient manner.

Inspection of Shipping.

Year 1956.

Nationality							Visits	Re-Visits	Total
British...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,908	212	4,120
Dutch ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	355	2	357
Norwegian	...	...	...	...	...	...	209	1	210
Swedish	...	...	...	...	...	...	154	1	155
American	...	...	...	...	...	...	151	4	155
German	...	...	...	...	...	...	146	2	148
Liberian	...	...	...	...	...	...	81	11	92
Panamanian	...	...	...	...	...	...	63	6	69
Danish	...	...	...	...	...	...	61	1	62
Spanish	...	...	...	...	...	...	45	—	45
Russian	...	...	...	...	...	...	37	—	37
Finnish	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	1	31
Costa Rican	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	3	29
Italian	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	3	26
Argentinian	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	—	22
Israeli ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	—	16
Greek ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	—	14
Chilian	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	—	13
Belgian	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	—	11
Egyptian	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	2	13
Portuguese	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
Swiss ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	—	10
Japanese	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
French	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—	5
Turkish	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Bulgarian	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Chinese	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Brazilian	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Honduras	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Icelandic	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Lebanese	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Polish ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
TOTAL ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,424	251	5,675

Table G.—Inspections and Notices.

Nature and Number of Inspections					Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
					Statutory	Other Notices	
NATURE OF INSPECTION							Nuisances Remedied
Dirty Crew Quarters	...	...	—	None	157	150	
Verminous Quarters	...	...	—	"	673	620	"
Dirty Washhouses or W.C.'s.	...	...	—	"	51	48	"
Foul Water Tanks	...	...	—	"	6	6	"
Foul Bilges	...	...	—	"	—	—	"
Foul or Choked W.C's.	...	...	—	"	10	10	"
Accumulations of offensive refuse	...	...	—	"	30	30	"
Gear stowed in Crews quarters	...	...	—	"	—	—	"
Damp Quarters	...	...	—	"	7	1	"
Leaky Deckheads	...	...	—	"	4	4	"
Defective Heating System	...	...	—	"	24	11	"
Defective Bulkheads...	...	...	—	"	2	2	"
Defective Portlights, Skylights, etc.	...	...	—	"	3	—	"
Defective or Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	—	"	—	—	"
Defective Deck Covering	...	...	—	"	3	2	"
Defective Lockers	...	...	—	"	1	1	"
Defective Chain or Hawse Pipes	...	...	—	"	—	—	"
Rat Harbourage	...	...	—	"	4	4	"
Defective W.C. Fittings	...	...	—	"	19	12	"
Defective Soil Pipes	...	...	—	"	5	4	"
Defective Waste Pipes or Scuppers	...	...	—	"	1	1	"
Defective Washing Facilities	...	...	—	"	7	7	"
Inadequate Lighting...	...	...	—	"	—	—	"
Inadequate Drainage	...	...	—	"	1	1	"
W.C's. discharging on Quay...	...	...	—	"	23	23	"
Miscellaneous	...	...	—	"	73	63	"
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS					—	—	—
TOTAL					—	1,104	1,000

Summary of Insanitary Conditions during the year 1956.

Class of Vessels	Number Inspected	Number in which Nuisances were found	Per cent.
SAILING FOREIGN—			
Steamers	2,500	156	6·24
Motor	2,353	63	2·68
Sailing	—	—	—
Total	4,853	219	4·51
SAILING COASTWISE—			
Steamers	346	24	6·94
Motor	224	3	1·34
Sailing	1	—	—
Total	571	27	4·73

Nationality	Number Inspected	Number in which Nuisances were found
British	3,908	190
Foreign	1,516	56
Total	5,424	246

Nuisances found in Vessels.

Defects of Original Construction (a)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Structural Defects through wear and tear (b)	Per cent. of Total Defects	Dirt, and other conditions prejudicial to health (c)	Per cent. of Total Defects
54	4·89	66	5·98	984	89·13

Section XIV.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934, 1948.

A cockle cleansing station at Hoylake, erected by the local authority, and let to a local fisherman, was visited, and samples of cockles were taken for bacteriological examination. Samples were taken after boiling, after sterilising and after washing in brine. Although the cockles after boiling were heavily contaminated, no bacteria were present in the other samples.

No prosecutions were instituted during the year.

DANGEROUS DRUGS.

During the year, 64 certificates authorising the purchase of scheduled dangerous drugs were issued under the Dangerous Drugs (No. 3 Regulation), 1923, amending the Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1921.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The following table gives the total number of aliens arriving in the Port of Liverpool during 1956, and the number of each of the categories under which alien passengers are classified by the Immigration Department of the Home Office:—

Visitors	Business Visitors	Others	Total
10,645	95	2,317	13,057

Total number of vessels carrying Alien passengers ...	953
Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ...	197
Number of aircraft dealt with by the Medical Inspector	15

Medical Inspection of Aliens. Year 1956.

	TOTAL.	Number Inspected by the Medical Inspector.	Number subjected to detailed examina- tion by the Medical Inspector.	CERTIFICATES ISSUED					Landing necessary for adequate medical examina- tion.	Transmi- grants.
				Lunatic Idiot or M.D.	Undesirable for medical reasons.	Physically incapaci- tated.	Suffering from acute infectious disease.			
(a) Total number of Aliens landing at the Port ...	13,057	12,299	254	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Aliens refused permission to land by Immigration Officer	52	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Transmigrants ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Aliens arriving at the Port ...	13,109	12,303	258	4	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTION.

Throughout the year 1956 food inspection has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the various regulations governing foods imported into this country for sale for human consumption.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48.

Article 10 of these Regulations states that "No prohibited meat or meat product shall be imported into England or Wales for human consumption, and no meat or meat product shall be so imported without an official certificate".

Infringements of this Article have occurred and have been dealt with as follows:—

Australia.

Two shipments of edible beef dripping totalling 270 drums, and not bearing any recognised official certificates, were landed and detained. Bulk covering veterinary certificates issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Australia were produced by the importer, and cables were sent between the importer and the packer before the goods were released.

One shipment described as 28 drums of edible tallow, without any recognised official certificate, was landed and detained. The drums were stencilled "Inedible" but the consignment was entered with H.M. Customs as "edible". The tallow was finally used for technical purposes in the textile trade.

A shipment of 1,000 cartons of canned stewed steak (48×8 ozs. tins each), was landed and detained. On examination it was found that the official certificate had been stamped on approximately only one-third of the cartons. A bulk veterinary certificate, issued by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Australia, was produced by the importer. A strong letter of protest was sent by the importer to the packer, drawing his attention to the omission of the certificate on the major portion of the consignment thus causing unnecessary delay and expense. The consignment was released.

New Zealand.

Two consignments of mutton tallow totalling 133 drums were landed and detained. Both consignments were entered with H.M. Customs as "edible tallow", and did not bear any recognised official certificate. The drums were stencilled "inedible". Bulk veterinary certificates, issued by the Department of Agriculture for New Zealand, were produced by the importer but finally the tallow was used for technical purposes only.

A small consignment of seven casks of oleo beef stearine, stencilled and entered as "edible", but not bearing any recognised official certificate, was detained on landing and eventually used for technical purposes.

A further consignment of 25 casks of mutton tallow, stencilled and entered as "edible", was detained as it did not bear any recognised official certificate. A bulk covering meat inspection certificate, issued by the Department of Agriculture in New Zealand, was produced and finally the required number of recognised official certificates arrived by air-mail.

Holland.

50 cartons of canned "chicken luncheon meat", not bearing the required official certificate, were landed and detained. The labels on the tins stated that the contents included beef and pork. A bulk veterinary certificates, issued by the Netherlands Veterinary Service and which included one recognised official certificate, was produced before the consignment was released, after the requirements of the Regulations had been pointed out to the importer.

Nigeria.

200 sides of frozen pork, not bearing the recognised official certificate, were landed, detained and finally exported.

Two boxes of salted bacon, not bearing the recognised official certificate, were landed and detained. They were allowed to be used as ship's stores.

United States of America.

Two consignments totalling 224 bags of hydrogenated lard flakes, not bearing any official certificate, were landed and detained. A covering

bulk certificate, issued by the Department of Agriculture, Meat Inspection Branch of the United States of America, was produced. The consignments were released.

South West Africa.

250 cartons of canned corned beef, not bearing any recognised official certificate, were landed and detained. A covering bulk veterinary certificate, issued by the Director of Agriculture for South West Africa, was produced and the consignment was released.

Bulk Edible Lard.

The importation of lard is subject to the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, as a meat product, and the Regulations require that the recognised official certificate should be affixed to the product or its container. It was agreed that for a trial period of one year, importation of lard in bulk, carried in the ship's tanks, should be permitted into Liverpool.

Several shipments have arrived from Belgium in tankers carrying from 250 to 330 tons each. The lard has arrived apparently in good condition. Samples have been taken under the provisions of the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937/48, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925/53, and submitted to the City Analyst who found the lard of good quality and free from preservatives. The lard was discharged by pipe-line either into a local mill at the quayside or direct into road tankers for inland delivery. The certifying authority affixed official certificates to each tank containing lard: these certificates were verified and destroyed by the food inspector at the time of discharge.

FROZEN MEATS.

Two small consignments of frozen kangaroo tails were imported from Australia for human consumption.

Two shipments of frozen beef and one shipment of various frozen offal were landed tainted from fuel oil and sent to local cold store for treat-

ment by ozonization. The treatment was successful and after further examination the whole of this meat was released for human consumption.

Onchocerciasis.

Bags of boneless brisket beef from Australia continued to be examined for worm nodules after partly defrosting the meat. The incidence of onchocerciasis was as high as 12 per cent in one consignment.

Caseous Lymphadenitis.

The examination of mutton and lamb for caseous lymphadenitis has been continued. Two consignments from Uruguay consisting of 17,435 carcasses of mutton were fully examined and found to be between 4 per cent and 5 per cent affected.

One consignment of 1,272 carcasses of lamb from Argentina, when fully examined, were 9.09 per cent affected.

A consignment of 228 carcasses of mutton from Australia was found to include 7.89 per cent carcasses affected.

Chilled Beef.

Chilled beef arrived in increasing quantity from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. The condition and quality was satisfactory.

Frozen Fish.

Frozen fish from Japan has been landed in good condition.

Quick-Frozen Foods.

Importations from Sweden of quick-frozen packaged foods including vegetables, fruit, poultry and fish fillets, have arrived in good condition.

Canned Foods.

Canned foods have continued to arrive in ever increasing quantity and variety. The general condition was good but occasional exceptions called for detailed examinations.

Several consignments of canned gherkins from Israel were found on landing to be in bad condition owing to tins having burst during transit. The consignments consisted of cardboard cartons containing two 20 lb. tins each. With the long journey over land and sea this weight was too great for this type of container, and many tins burst at the soldered seams. One-third of one consignment was lost for human consumption.

Canned pineapples from Formosa have varied from sound to 21 per cent blown and burst tins.

Canned tomatoes from Italy have varied from sound to 10.5 per cent blown and burst tins.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

Fresh fruit has arrived in general good condition, but a glut of imported potatoes in the early part of the year resulted in several consignments being left on the dock quays until decomposition became evident. One consignment of 2,645 bags from Holland, weighing 296,340 lbs. was sent for pig food.

1,863 cases of onions from Chile were sorted and later the contents of 444 cases were destroyed for decomposition.

Dried Fruit.

A consignment of 848 boxes of dried apricots from Iran, which was landed in August 1954, and detained on account of the contents being dirty and infested with insects, was finally destroyed in July of this year.

A consignment of 328 boxes of dried fruit salad from U.S. America, found to be mouldy and decomposing, was later destroyed.

325 boxes of dried currants from Greece was landed in a water-damaged condition. These were reconditioned in a local warehouse, and 117 boxes containing wet and mouldy currants were later exported. The balance was released for human consumption in this country.

From a cargo of 27,000 boxes of dried currants from Greece approximately 2,500 boxes were landed water-damaged, fermenting and decomposing. These unsound currants were later destroyed.

Further large quantities of dried fruits have been landed in a satisfactory condition.

Nuts.

Cokernuts from West Africa still demand careful supervision. Some consignments were found to be 29 per cent unsound when fully examined.

Egg Products.

During the year, 56 consignments of egg products (frozen and dried), totalling 98,407 packages, were landed in the Port of Liverpool from Australia, New Zealand, China, Denmark and Sweden. They consisted of the following categories, viz. :—

1. Frozen liquid whole egg and albumen.
2. Powdered whole egg and yolk.
3. Crystallised albumen.
4. Glycerinated yolk.

The sampling of several consignments of frozen liquid whole egg from Australia, landed during the year 1955, was still not completed by the end of that year and was carried over into 1956.

Pathogenic salmonellae reported by the Public Health Laboratory Service has varied from nil to 100 per cent and 12 types have been identified. The percentage of samples taken from each consignment has fluctuated, but is now stabilised at 5 per cent from each batch in a consignment.

Several importations of crystallised hen egg albumen, contaminated with pathogenic salmonellae, were released to districts outside Liverpool for heat treatment with the consent and under the supervision of the local medical officers of health. Other importations have been exported.

No satisfactory means have so far been found to sterilise liquid whole egg contaminated by pathogenic salmonellae, and therefore fairly large stocks are still detained.

A consignment of ten drums of crystallised hen egg albumen from Hamburg was accompanied by a certificate stating that: "This egg was manufactured in Denmark entirely from Danish hen egg, and has been pasteurised by heat treatment". Samples were taken from all ten drums and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. The result was that pathogenic salmonellae were found in two samples. Eight negative drums were released and the two positive drums were exported.

A consignment of thirty barrels of crystallised egg albumen from Sweden was sampled and pathogenic salmonellae were present in every barrel. This consignment was later released for heat treatment under the supervision of a local medical officer of health outside Liverpool.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925/53.

Various foods have been sampled and submitted for chemical analysis under the above Regulations.

Citrus fruits have been reported as having no thiourea present and no excessive amount of diphenyl.

One consignment of 1,284 cartons of canned marmalade from South Africa was sampled and 149 cartons (24 × 2 lbs. tins each) were reported to contain up to 360 parts per million of sulphur dioxide, with considerable blackening of the cans internally; the marmalade had an inky taste. The 149 cartons were destroyed by the owner under supervision.

General Hygiene.

The overall improvement noted last year in the handling and transport of imported foodstuffs has been maintained. Individual instances of lack of cleanliness, which are generally due to carelessness, have been remedied immediately when pointed out to the offenders.

It would be an advantage if a specific dock or berth could be given over entirely to the discharge of refrigerated meat cargoes.

UN SOUND SUGAR.

688 tons 4 cwt. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. of unsound sugar (loose-collected, sweepings, etc.) was dealt with during the year, and suitably disposed of to local Refiners for reconditioning.

Table showing the quantity and description of unsound meats utilised under supervision* during the year 1956:—

DESCRIPTION.	TOTAL WEIGHT	CAUSE OF DESTRUCTION					
		Tuberculous.		Brine stained, mouldy and decomposed.		Other causes.	
	Tons cwt. qrs. lbs.	Tons cwt. qrs.	lbs.	Tons cwt. qrs.	lbs.	Tons cwt. qrs.	lbs.
Beef	14 11 2 19	—	—	11 9 2	12	3 2 0	7
Mutton	18 0 1 11	—	—	13 5 3	20	4 14 1	19
Pork	— 4 0 12	—	—	— 4 0	12	— — —	—
Veal	— 2 2 21	—	—	— 2 2	21	— — —	—
Total	32 18 3 7	—	—	25 2 1	9	7 16 1	26

*These were destroyed or allowed to go for industrial purposes to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer.

Table showing the total quantities of the different unsound foodstuffs utilised under supervision during the year 1956 :—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef, Mutton, Pork and Veal	32	18	3	7
Offal (Beef, Mutton, etc.)	—	15	3	17
Canned Goods	80	8	0	15
Fruit and Vegetables	3,142	0	3	11
Cereals	417	12	0	5
General (Fish, Poultry, Rabbits, etc.) ...	24	8	1	7
TOTAL	3,698	4	0	6

The following tables give the particulars of samples sent to the City Analyst and City Bacteriologist for examination during the year 1956 :—

CITY ANALYST

Apples	1
Bananas	1
Lard	5
Marmalade	1
Oranges	7
Pears	1
Tomato Powder	1

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

Beef	1
Beef Liver	2
Bones	3
Brine	2
Butter	1
Cheese	2
Cockles	7

EGG :

Dried Egg Albumen	99
„ „ „ Crystals	56
„ Whole Egg	98
„ Pasteurised Hen Egg	
Albumen Flaked	10
Frozen Hen Egg Albumen	1,179
„ „ „ Pulp	150
„ Liquid Whole Egg	4,198
„ Whole Egg	170
Glycerinated Concentrated	
Hen Egg Yolk	16
Hen Egg Albumen Crystals	112
Spray Dried Hen Egg Yolk	4
„ „ Whole Egg	21

6,113

Faeces	129
Fish	3
Ham	2
Ice	1
Lamb	1
Lettuce	4
Radish	1
Rectal Swabs	19
Sausage	8
Salt for Brine	1
Sheep Kidneys	2
Sheep Liver	2
Tomato	3
Water	243

6,550

In addition, 314 samples of goat hair, cashmere, mohair and wool were submitted for examination.

The Port Health Authority is also engaged in the issue of certificates of disinfection for foreign governments and other purposes in connection with the exportation of hides, wool, jute sacks and cloth, tailors' cuttings, rags, second-hand bags and clothing, bales of cotton, etc.

The department also endorses under the United States, Canadian and other regulations, certificates regarding wholesomeness of food articles, and the sanitary condition of the premises in which the articles are produced or stored, comprising poultry, game, cheese, bacon, hams, potatoes, preserved fish, pickled beef, tongues, sausage skins, lime juice, etc.

The work attached to preparing and recording these certificates is considerable, and takes up a large amount of time of the department.

I desire to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance received from H.M. Collector of Customs and staff, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board and their officers, and the various shipping companies who have co-operated with the Port Health Authority in the maintenance of Public Health and the prevention of disease in the port. The Consular Bodies have at all times given courteous assistance.

ANDREW B. SEMPLE,
Medical Officer of Health,
Liverpool Port Health Authority.

